that Dr. Colden had a good opinion of the remedy." *Letter from Dr. Franklin to M. Dubourg.*

Note F.

Linnæus, in his Flora Laponica, tells us that the roots of *Calla palustris*, although acrid and caustic in the highest degree, *(ignis firme instar,)* are made into a kind of bread in high estimation, called *Missebrœd*. This is performed by drying and grinding the roots, afterwards boiling and macerating them until they are deprived of acrimony, when they are baked like other farinaceous substances into bread.

The recent juice of the *Jatropha manihot*, or Cassava tree of the West Indies, is highly poisonous. The deleterious principle however resides in a volatile portion, which is dissipated by heat. The remaining substance of the root is used by the inhabitants for bread, as a material for a kind of soup, and as the basis of a fermented liquor.

Note G.

The following is Kæmpfer's description taken from his Amœnitates Exoticæ, p. 791. His accompanying figure resembles the American Rhus vernix, except, that the end of the branch and bud are larger in proportion than with us.

"*Sitz*, vel. *Sitzdsju*, i. e. *Sitz* planta, vulgo *Urus* seu *Urus no ki*, Arbor vernicifera legitima, folio pinnato Juglandis, fructu racemoso ciceris facie.

"Arbor paucis ramis brachiata, salicis ad altitudinem luxuriose exsurgit. Cortice donatur incano, ex verruculis scabro, facile abscedente; *ligno* saligneo fragillimo; *medulla* copiosa, ligno adnata; *Surculis* longis crassis in extremitate inordinate foliosis. *Folium* est impariter pennatum, spithamale vel longius, Juglandis folio æmulum, costa tereti, leviter lanuginosa; quam a semipalmari nuditate stipant lobi sive folia simplicia, pediculo perbrevi nixa, tenuia, plana, ovata, trium vel quatuor unciarum longitudinis, basi inæqualiter rotunda, mucrone brevi angusto, margine integro, suprema facie obscure viridi, lævi, et ex nervis lacunosa, dorso incano et molliter lanuginoso. Nervus medius in mucronem terminans subinde multos a latere demittit nervos minores, citra marginem deficientes. Sapor folio sylvestris inest, cum sensibili calore; humor affrictus extemplo chartam ferrugineo colore imbuit. In surculis quibusdam ex foliorum axillis singuli surgunt *Racemi* laxe ramosi, palmares, tenues, qui, petiolis in calyculos rotundos desinentibus, *Flosculos* continent pumilos, et citra Coriandri seminis magnitudinem radiantes, in luteum herbaceos, pentapetalos, petalis carnosis nonnihil oblongis et repandis; staminibus ad petalorum interstitia singulis, apicatis, brevissimis, stylo perbrevi tricipite, floris turbini insidente. Ordorem spirant dulcem, Aurantio flori affinem et pergratum. *Fructus* flosculum excipit gibbosus, utcumque in rhomboidis figuram compressus, bifidus, facie ac magnitudine ciceris, membranula tenui micante vestitus, per maturitatem durissimus et obsoleti coloris.

"Cortex arboris cultro crenatus lacteum fundit lentorem, humore crystallino (ex aliis ductibus stillante) permixtum, qui ad aëris contactum nigrescit. Eundem surculi divulsi, foliorum pediculi, et nervi produnt, nullius gustabilis qualitatis participem, nisi califacientis sine acredine. Venenatos tamen spiritus hæc arbor exhalare dicitur, vehementes adeo, ut pueris circa eandem commorantibus exanthemata in corpore pariant: qualia etiam lignum tractantes alii (non omnes) experiuntur. Collectio *Urusj*, sive Vernicis, ut instituatur, caudices præcipue triennes, paucis crenis vulnerandæ sunt, ex quibus stillans liquor subinde excipitur, iterata in recente loco sectione, donec exsucci marcescant. Emulsi atque omni succo orbati, illico amputandi sunt; sic nova e radice provenit soboles, quæ, triennis facta, collectioni denuo subjicitur." * * *

"Vernix nativa vix præparatione indiget. Japonica per duplicatam chartam subtilissimam, telæ aranearum pene similem, et

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